STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

PROGRAM INFORMATION BULLETIN

Janel Simpson, Deputy Commissioner

INFORMATION BULLETIN NO: 16-02

PROGRAM: SAGA

Subject:

SAGA "unemployability" based on caring for an incapacitated child (of any age) or spouse--procedural guidance.

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UPM 8080.25, B., 1., b states that non-medical "unemployable" criteria are met when a SAGA applicant/recipient is needed at home to care for an incapacitated child (of any age) or spouse.

This PIB gives guidance on how to determine whether the SAGA client's spouse or child should be considered incapacitated under this provision.

Procedures for determining incapacity of a child (of any age) or spouse.

DSS (not CCC) is responsible for determining if the SAGA client qualifies as "unemployable" because he or she is caring for an incapacitated child (of any age) or spouse.

To determine if the spouse or child is incapacitated, the DSS eligibility worker (not CCC) needs to send out or otherwise give form W-1074 to the client. This form should be completed by an appropriate medical provider and returned to the DSS ConneCT Scanning Center @ P.O. Box 1320 Manchester, CT. 06045-1320

Please note that, for this situation, workers <u>do not</u> use the CCC Scanning Center return envelope (printed in blue ink with the CCC logo in the upper left hand corner, mailing address P.O. Box 2040.) Instead, use the standard DSS ConneCT Scanning Center return envelope showing P.O. Box 1320.

Upon receipt of the W-1074, DSS eligibility staff should review the form. Accept the information submitted on the form by the medical provider in determining whether the client's spouse or child is incapacitated, and, if so, whether any other person is available to care for the spouse or child. If the information available to you indicates that the spouse or child is incapacitated and that the client cannot work because he or she is needed to care for the incapacitated person, grant the case if

eligibility has otherwise been established.

Set a SAGA eligibility review date based on how long the medical provider indicates the incapacity will last, but in no instance should the review date be more than 12 months from the effective date of the award of benefits.

Please note: The SAGA client does not have to live with, reside, or otherwise be part of the same household as the incapacitated child or spouse for this non-medical "unemployability" criteria to be met. For this policy, an "incapacitated child" includes an incapacitated child of any age, even if over age 18.

Disposition:

Retain for future reference.

Distribution:

Eligibility Staff

Responsible Units:

Economic Security Unit......860-424-5540

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DJB